a proverb in Tamil : *Aanaipasiku sola pori*. That means, give a grain of corn to a starving elephant. What you have announced is a drop in the ocean. You have announced Rs. 10 lakhs. What is it ? And then you have announced Rs. 21.93 crores from the CRF. The statement of our hon. Minister simply says, "These funds would enable the State Governments to adequately meet the relief expenditure."

Madam, the State Government has demanded Rs. 530 crores. That is an under-assessed and under-estimated amount of relief. I want to give facts and figures. The total loss is about thousand crores of rupees worth of property and you are giving Rs. 21.93 crores. It may be due to the fact that the State Revenue Minister had made a statement that the amounts for relief measures, that is, essential commodities, dhoties, sarees and rice, were given from their party coffers, from the personal coffers of the Chief Minister, not from the Government coffers. It appeared in the press. So, the Central Government might have come to the conclusion that if the party itself is there to render assistance, the damage must be very small and they could meet the situation. Such an inference can be drawn. If the Revenue Minister makes a statement for three days that they have given it from the party coffers, what would people in Delhi think ? I am really very much worried about the situation because every day cholera deaths are reported from the hospitals in the three districts. When most of the areas of villages and towns are submerged and people cannot get a bucket of drinking water, I just recall S. T. Coleridge. "Water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink". Because proper precautionary measures were not taken deaths due to cholera were reported in every hospital in the last six months. Most of the cases are not reported. It has become a terrible problem. My friend Mr. Balaram, was referring to the amount of Rs. 5000. "What can people do ? How can they construct houses ?" With Rs. 5000 they cannot construct houses. That is a genuine grievance of the people of Kerala. But here in my State, Rs. 500, in some cases Rs. 250 is being given.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now we have to adjourn the House for lunch. We will take up Calling Attention—further discussion—after lunch if the Members so agree.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty five minutes past two of the clock.

The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan) in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Hon. Members, with your leave, I call upon the Minister to introduce the Bill which was not done in the morning.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

The circumstances which had necessitated immediate legislation by the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Ordinance, 1992

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) explaining the circumstances which had necessitated immediate legislation by the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Ordinance, 1992 [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-2791/92]

THE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS BILL, 1992

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of the multimodal transportation of goods, from any place in India to a place outside India, on the basis of a multimodal transport contract and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : We will

continue the discussion on the Calling Attention motion. Mr. Gopalsamy to continue.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The recent floods and Cyclonic Storms, Particularly in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Pondicherry and action taken by Government in regard thereto—contd.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Madam Vice-Chairman, I have been narrating with a heavy heart the traffic suffering of the people of the southern districts of Tamil Nadu due to the severe cyclonic storms and the torrential rains and the resultant floods. In Thirunelveli district, we witnessed the worst sufferers in a place called Melkarai, near Senkottai where seventeen bodies were recovered from the debris and the remaining bodies are yet to be recovered. In Ambasamudram, Cheranmadevi, Nanguneri, Velliyur, the affected lot are the farmers. Bananas raised in their lands were totally damaged. But I am pained to say that the Tamil Nadu Government sent a vague Memorandum to the Central Government seeking relief and financial assistance. I think such a vague report without substantiating the facts and figures would have never been submitted by any Government. When I went through the recommendations of the report, I found that the State Government devoted only one page, only three paragraphs, about my district. This is indicative of the reckless, callous attitude on the part of the bureaucrats and this is evident from the way they forwarded the report to the Central Government. They could say that the time at their disposal was very short. Then, they should say that they had not completed the assessment. For example, the report recorded that around ten thousand huts were damaged in Thirunelveli district. But in Thirunelveli town alone, in the headquarters of the district alone, around ten thousand houses were damaged. Ten thousand families as on today are left in the lurch. For hours together, I visited the streets where the houses were affected. More than thirty to forty thousand houses were damaged in the entire district. The Central Government is giving a pittance of financial assistance and they are putting forth so many arguments for that. That is different. But it is very unfortunate for the State of Tamil Nadu if the actual damage was not properly assessed and estimated and the relative facts and figures were not forwarded to the Central Government. The people of Tamil Nadu are the ultimate sufferers. There is no mention about Melkarai incident at all in this Memorandum. I do not know for what they sent this Memorandum. There is no mention about the damaged occurred to the farmers.

Same is the case with the adjacent district, Kanyakumari. Within a month, the people of Kanyakumari district had to witness two calamities. No details are available about this in the Report. In Chidambaranar district, one particular place, Attur, was severely affected by the floods. There is no mention about that. In the area around Attur Rs. 15 crore worth banana was damaged. There is no mention about it in this Memorandum. Again, in respect of Madurai district, there are no details. The landslide at Meghamalai claimed around 100 people and there are reports that more number of deaths might have happened. This is what the people in this area were saying. No details are available about this in this Memorandum.

Four lines were written about Ramanathapuram district. The fishermen in the coastal areas have lost all their livelihood. Thousands of boats were lost. There are some references as to how much they need for roads. But no particulars are given in the Report. I have collected hundreds of photographs which appeared in the newspapers. They say 'roads'. You give such and such amount for roads. No details are, however, given as to the roads damaged, the length of the roads, the portion of the damage, the number of bridges which were damaged and at what places. No particulars are available in this Memorandum sent by the Tamil Nadu Government. It is an intolerable injustice done to the people of Tamil Nadu. It is a betrayal of the people of Tamil Nadu. Tomorrow the Prime Minister is going to make an aerial survey. The peasants, the hutdwellers are expecting the Government to render all assistance, Contrary to their hopes, they are going to be asked to vacate the